

## Timeline of Events

1897 – Acting Superintendent of Yellowstone, Colonel S.B.M. Young proposed an idea to expand Yellowstone’s boundaries southward to encompass portions of Jackson Hole.

1900 – Lacey Act passes, establishing federal authority over wildlife transportation.

1902 – Congress passes the Reclamation Act.

1905 – Bison in Yellowstone number a mere 25.

1906 – Congress passes Antiquities Act, which gives the president authority to set aside lands for protection.

1906 – Devils Tower National Monument in Wyoming becomes the nation’s first national monument when President Theodore Roosevelt uses presidential proclamation to establish it.

1906 – First log crib dam on Jackson Lake is built by the Bureau of Reclamation.

1908 – Bounty on wolves cease.

1911 – Jackson Lake Dam is replaced with a cement structure and earthen dike raising the lake level by 39 vertical feet.

1912 – National Elk Refuge established to preserve winter range for the Jackson Hole Elk Herd.

1914-1918 – World War I rages. Though centered in Europe, the war gradually expands to include most of the world’s nations.

1915 – Yellowstone National Park officially opened to automobiles.

1916 – National Park Services established by Congress, with Stephan Mather as its first director.

1917 – In a report to the Secretary of the Interior, National Park Service Director Stephen Mather and his assistant Horace Albright proposed park expansion of Yellowstone to include the Tetons, Jackson Lake and headwaters of the Yellowstone River as one of seven “urgent needs facing the Park Service”

1917 – Woodrow Wilson insists that the “World must be made safe for democracy” and the United States declares war on Germany.

1918 – Wyoming congressman Frank Mondell introduced the first bill in Congress to expand Yellowstone’s boundaries into Teton country. It passed the House but not the Senate.

1918 – Flu Pandemic kills 20 million people worldwide.

1918 – Migratory Bird Treaty Act passed.

1918 – Germany formally surrenders. The armistice takes effect on the “eleventh hour of the eleventh day in the eleventh month.”

1920 – The Nineteenth Amendment is ratified, giving women the right to vote. Wyoming becomes the Equality State because it is the first to bestow women with franchise to vote. Jackson becomes the first town in America to be governed entirely by women (included mayor, town council and town marshal)

1923 – Historical meeting held at Maud Noble’s cabin between local residents and Yellowstone Superintendent Horace Albright to discuss preserving the “Old West” character of Jackson Hole and create a “museum on the hoof.” The Jackson Hole Plan is born.

1924 and 1926 – John D. Rockefeller, Jr. makes trips to Teton Country and becomes intrigued by the Jackson Hole Plan. He decides to purchase private lands to donate toward becoming a national park.

1926 – Restoration of Colonial Williamsburg begins, financed by John D. Rockefeller, Jr. This is the laboratory where the work of historic preservation comes of age.

1927 – Gros Ventre slide of 1925 breaches and the resulting flood wipes out the town of Kelly, killing 6 people.

1929 – Congress passes the Migratory bird Conservation Act, creating a nationwide system of refuges to preserve habitat for wintering and nesting waterfowl.

1929 – Calvin Coolidge signs the bill, on February 26th, creating Grand Teton National Park. Only the Teton Range and piedmont lakes are included.

1929 – The stock market crashes, plunging the nation into the Great Depression.

1930 – Visitors to 55 units of the National Park System totaled over 3.2 million.

1931 – 1945 – World War II threatens and eventually ensnares most of the world’s nations once again.

1932 – Senate Subcommittee convenes hearings to investigate claims of unfair business dealings by Snake River Land Company in purchasing lands for expanded park boundaries.

1933 – The Civilian Conservation Corps becomes one of the New Deal programs helping to complete public works projects. At its peak, there are 118 CCC camps in national parks. Grand Teton National Park benefits from a CCC work force.

1933 – Lowest recorded temperature for the state of Wyoming occurred at Moran, -63 degrees Fahrenheit.

1934-1937 – Drought strikes Midwest States creating the “dust bowl” in the midst of the Great Depression.

1935 – The Wilderness Society is organized. One of the founders, Forest Service employee Robert Marshall, argues for the protection of wilderness.

1940 – Visitors to 161 units of the National Park System total over 16.7 million.

1941 – Attack on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii by Japanese forces prompt President Franklin D. Roosevelt to declare war on Japan.

1943 – On March 15th, President Roosevelt uses presidential proclamation to create the Jackson Hole National Monument. Wyoming Congressman Frank Barrett introduces a bill to abolish the Jackson Hole National Monument. FDR vetoes it.

1945 – FDR dies

1945 – Germany surrenders unconditionally bringing the war in Europe to an end. After two atomic bombs are dropped on Japan, it too surrenders ending World War II.

1945 – 1947 – Additional bills introduced into Congress to abolish the Jackson Hole National Monument. They all fail.

1947 – The Wilderness Society is founded.

1949 – Aldo Leopold’s *Sand County Almanac* is published posthumously. Leopold is one of the first modern writers to focus on appreciation of nature and whole ecosystems.

1950 – Visitors to 182 units of the National Park System total over 33.2 million.

1950 – Harry S. Truman signs the bill merging the 1929 Grand Teton National Park with the 1943 Jackson Hole National Monument on September 14th.

1950 – North Korea invades South Korea starting the Korean War.

1956 – Plans for Echo Park Dam on the Green River get scrapped, ensuring that a repeat of Hetch Hetchy will not occur.

1959 – Hebgen Lake Earthquake, the deadliest quake in Wyoming history, kills 28 people with a 7.5 magnitude trembler.

1960 – Visitors to 187 units of the National Park System total over 80 million.

1962 – Rachel Carson publishes *Silent Spring*, alerting millions of Americans to the devastation caused by pesticides.

1962 – The U.S. supports French colonial efforts in Indochina from 1950 – 1956 and eventually places troops in Vietnam to support South Vietnamese independence from communism. The Vietnam War drags on for 13 more years, ending with U.S. withdrawal of troops in 1975. Wyoming ranks fifth in the nation for Vietnam War casualty rate.

1963 – President Kennedy visits Jackson Hole and Grand Teton National Park late September; 2 months later on November 22nd JFK is assassinated in Houston.

1963 – Fewer than 500 nesting pairs of Bald eagles exist due to effects of DDT.

1963 – Congress passes the first Clean Air Act.

1964 – The Wilderness Act is enacted into law. It proposes to preserve into perpetuity areas “where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain.” More than 9 million acres were protected under the National Wilderness Preservation System. Wyoming is home to 15 designated wilderness areas.

1967 – Teton Science School, an environmental education center started by Ted Major, opens at the old Elbo Ranch on park’s east boundary.

1968 – The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act is passed, protecting free-flowing rivers.

1968 – Both Rev. Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy are assassinated.

1969 – Three Apollo astronauts land on the moon. Neil Armstrong remarks, “one giant step for man, one giant leap for mankind” as he takes the first moon walk.

1970 – The Environmental Protection Agency is created and begins to monitor the nation’s environmental health and prevent pollution.

1970 – President Richard Nixon visits Grand Teton National Park.

1972 – Yellowstone National Park Centennial commemoration.

1972 – President Richard Nixon is reelected, but the ensuing Watergate Scandal brings about his resignation in 1974. Nixon is the only president in history to resign his post.

1972 – Colter Bay Visitor Center rededicated during the opening of a new Indian Arts Museum which displays the David T. Vernon Indian Art collection.

1972 – Grand Teton National Park implements the first Backcountry Management Plan.

1973 – President Nixon signs the Endangered Species Act.

1974 – Waterfall Canyon Fire burns approximately 3,000 acres and becomes the first test for Grand Teton's 1972 Prescribed Burn Management Policy.

1978 – President Jimmy Carter visits.

1980 – Visitors to 333 units of the National Park System total over 190.1 million.

1983 – Secretary of Interior James Watt authorizes a 30 year agreement for continued operations at Jackson Hole Airport.

1983 – Record 50 pound Mackinaw lake trout caught in Jackson Lake by Doris Budge.

1984 – 1989 – Jackson Lake Dam is reinforced and the earthen dike improved after the Teton Dam in Idaho fails in 1976 and studies showed flaws in this similarly built dam.

1985 – Beaver Creek Fire burns approximately 1,000 acres near the original park headquarters.

1987 – Cutthroat trout adopted as Wyoming State Fish.

1988 – Drought conditions lead to a summer of fires in Yellowstone National Park and surrounding forests. Over 1 million acres burn during worst fire season of modern times.

1989 – 60% of the trumpeter swan population die because of freeze up on creeks and rivers during harsh winter. Only 200 – 300 resident swans exist in GYE after 1989.

1989 – The Exxon Valdez founders and spills 11.2 million gallons of crude oil into Prince William Sound in Alaska creating one of the worst environmental disasters in history.

1989 – President George Bush visits Grand Teton National Park.

1989 – U.S.–U.S.S.R.Pre-Summit World Peace Treaty talk and agreement takes place between Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and Secretary of State James A. Baker III at Jackson Lake Lodge.

1990 – Visitors to 357 units of the National Park System total 258.6 million.

1990 – Germany reunited after 45 years of division between east and west.

1990 – Wyoming celebrates its Centennial.

1990 – NPS staff in Grand Teton join the computer age with first network system.

1991 – The Persian Gulf War is initiated by Pres. George Bush after Iraq invades Kuwait. The war levels environmental havoc on the area.

1992 – Visitation hits 3 million in Grand Teton National Park.

1993 – Historic Crandall Studio is moved and renovated to house Jenny Lake Visitor Center and geology exhibits.

1995 – Continental Divide Snowmobile Trail opens for the first winter on January 20th.

1995 – Wolves reintroduced into Yellowstone National Park after years of debate and public review process.

1997 – A study regarding grazing use and open space is conducted leading to legislation authorizing continuation of some grazing rights in the park.

1996 & 1997 – President Bill Clinton, Hilary and Chelsea vacation in Jackson Hole.

1999 – After exploring Grand Teton National Park in 1998, wolves den in the park for the first time in over 60 years.

1999 – Visitors to 378 units of the National Park System total over 286.6 million.

1999 – Jackson Hole Airport begins construction on approved safety features such as runway stopways, a taxiway and control tower.

2000 – Visitation in Grand Teton National Park climbs from 641,000 in 1951 to nearly 4.2 million by 1999 yearend.

2000 – Grand Teton National Park celebrates its 50th Anniversary with a yearlong focus on the creation of the park and its public legacy.